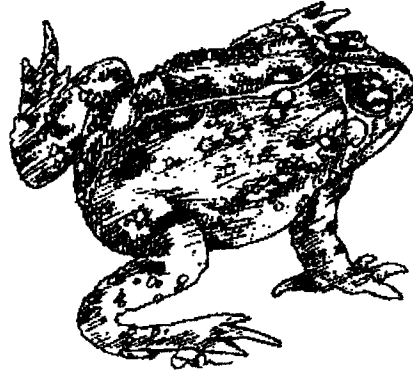


Woodhouse's Toad

Bufo woodhousei
Family Bufonidae



Global Rank: G5

State Rank: S2 (OR); S3 (ID, WA);
S4 (CA, MT, WY); S5 (AZ, CO, NV, UT, NM)

Distribution: Woodhouse's toad ranges from Montana to Mexico and from Iowa to Nevada, but is absent from higher elevations of the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast. It may be found from near sea level to as high as 8,500 ft. (2,590 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adults reach up to 5 in. (12.5 cm.) in snout-vent length. Key characteristics include cranial crests or boss with L-shaped ridges of bone between and behind the eyes; elongated parotoid glands behind the eyes; light vertebral stripe; horizontal pupils; dry, warty skin; and two horny tubercles on underside of hindfeet. Coloration varies from gray, yellowish brown, olive, or blackish above, usually with dark blotches. There often is a yellow and black network on the rear of the thighs, and cream to beige coloration on lower surface, possibly with dark flecks. Tadpoles reach up to 1 in. (2.5 cm.) in total length, with



Current range of the Woodhouse's toad

key characteristics including dark brown to black mottling coloration on body; tail musculature dark above and light below; and a round body with a jutting snout. Adult males have a sooty throat, set off by a pale yellow border on the lower jaw. The voice has been compared to a snore, infant's cry, and bawling of a calf. It is a nasal *w-a-a-a-ah*, starting as an explosive wheezy sound dropping in pitch at the end. The vocal sac is round.

Reproduction: Breeding usually begins after spring rains with choruses lasting a few weeks. Females lay up to 25,000 eggs in the spring or early summer. Eggs are in two, long, intertwined strands, each composed of a single gel layer. Strands may be wrapped around submerged vegetation or branches. Tadpoles metamorphose in one to two months, and become sexually mature in two years.

Food: Adults feed on a variety of invertebrates, especially ants, beetles, and other small, terrestrial arthropods. Larvae eat a variety of algae, plant tissues, and organic debris.

Habits: Found in grasslands, shrub steppe, woods, river valleys, floodplains, and agricultural land, usually in areas with deep soils. Does well in areas of only temporary water habitats. The toads are mostly nocturnal, but diurnal activity is not uncommon. They are active in both wet and dry weather, but may become inactive during cold weather in the fall, winter, and spring. When inactive, they burrow underground or hide under rocks, plants, or other cover.

Management Implications: Woodhouse's toads are relatively common throughout their range. However their future health depends upon permanent water being maintained within their range.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Groves, C.R., B. Butterfield, A. Lippincott, B. Csuti, and J.M. Scott. 1997. Atlas of Idaho's wildlife. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID; Baxter, G.T., and M.D. Stone. 1980. Amphibians and reptiles of Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY.